

**Minutes of the Carlisle Board of Health
October 8, 2013**

Present: Board members Jeff Brem (Chairman), Catherine Galligan, Bill Risso, Vallabh Sarma and Donna Margolies; also present Linda Fantasia (Agent); Ginny Lamere (Mosquito), David Freedman, Ed Rolfe and Mark Lamere (Planning Board) Mark Piermarini (Bingham and Whitney), Robert Morrison (128 Log Hill Rd.), Rob Frado (TCG), David Flannery (Em. Director/ Fire Chief)

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm. at Carlisle Town Hall.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

Rabies Incident – A family dog brought home a dead raccoon (Fielding Farm Drive). Owner notified the Board of Health. Dog was seen at veterinarian's and raccoon was brought by police department to the Countryside Veterinary Hospital for preparation for testing at state laboratory. Raccoon tested positive. Owner, police and Countryside were notified. Dog is under a 45 day restraining order. Animal Inspector and Dog Officer will verify. Countryside will bill the town under their Agreement for Services. It was suggested to use Blackboard Connect to notify neighbors of the positive findings and to remind them to keep trash contained and avoid wild life.

Emergency Beaver Permit – Fantasia visited site with Park Ranger. Emergency vehicle access road is close to flooding due to a blocked culvert. Dept. Conservation & Recreation requested a 10-day trapping permit. Integrated Wildlife Control is under contract with the state to do the trapping. Fantasia issued the 10-day permit; the Board needs to ratify the permit. Brem asked to be notified when requests are made.

It was moved (Risso) and seconded (Galligan) to ratify the issuance of an Emergency 10-Day Permit to trap beavers at Great Brook State Park due to a public health emergency. Motion passed 5-0-0.

Population Health Clerkship (U. Mass Medical School) – five students will be in Carlisle from 10/15-10/15/13 to work on a Fire Safety and Medical Oxygen project. Galligan has agreed to be the Board representative to the group. Appointments with have been arranged with a pulmonologist and the Fire Chief. The students will broadcast an informational segment for Council on Aging's monthly cable program.

Website Improvements – Fantasia said the Board's website could use improvement and asked the Board to review the site. Some residents have complained that information is not easy to access.

Mass Health Officers Assoc. Conference – Margolies and Fantasia will attend on 10/23-24. Lyman will cover the office. Risso may be interested in a single session. Attendance can be paid from Emergency Preparedness (EP) funds as long as one-half the time is spent in the EP track.

Wage Salary Classification Study – Fantasia and Lyman have completed their job description questionnaires. Risso agreed to review Fantasia's job description. The questionnaires were due 9/30/13. Interviews will be done in November so that the town can plan for any budget impacts.

Fire & Life Safety Conference – Fantasia and Wellness Grant coordinator Terry Curran each attended one day, which was paid from grant funds. The conference was sponsored by the Dept. of Fire Services. This year's focus is Senior Safety. Kitchen fires are a problem in senior households. Fantasia suggested the Board explore grant funds to purchase the "Hazard Kitchen" which can be used to demonstrate safe cooking. The Board agreed. There are also programs to install smoke detectors in senior homes since detectors only have a 6-7 year life span. Galligan noted that there are now 10-year batteries so they do not need to be replaced annually. Many seniors find maintaining smoke detectors a problem. Galligan suggested gifting detectors to elderly relatives during the holidays.

Minutes – It was moved (Galligan) and seconded (Margolies) to approve the minutes of 8/13/13 as amended. Motion passed 4-0-1(Brem did not attend meeting). It was moved (Risso) and seconded (Galligan) to approve the minutes of 9/10/13. Motion passed 5-0-0.

Proposed Planning Board Subdivision Regulations Revisions – Freedman and Lamere met at the Board of Health’s request to explain the proposed changes. Freedman said most of the proposed changes involve administrative and storm water management issues. There are no changes to the Board of Health plan review. Brem explained that the Board of Health only has 45 days to identify problems to the Planning Board, otherwise it becomes a presumptive approval. The Board of Health asked if plans are available in .pdf. Freedman said they would be and could be shared. The Board of Health is responsible for determining site suitability for each of the proposed lots to treat waste and provide a water supply. Individual septic construction permits must be obtained later. The Board had questions on the new storm water management requirements and whether this could impact future siting of septic systems. Freedman explained that most projects follow Low Impact Development (LID) designs. Freedman said the proposed revisions are intended to codify a number of practices that are already occurring with better language and descriptions. Planning Board’s role is different from the Board of Health in that it can impose additional conditions if a development is asking for waivers or a special permit, whereas the Board of Health is obligated to follow minimum Title 5 standards when issuing a permit.

Brem asked who was verifying the drainage calculations and Freedman said it would be the Planning Board’s consultant, Steve Ventresca of Judith Nitsche Inc. Brem explained that LID encourages infiltration at the source rather than transporting to another location. This could be a problem if it resulted in groundwater mounding beneath a nearby septic system. The Board is concerned about identifying this before a Definitive Plan is approved. While in favor of low impact designs, the Board noted that LID designs may involve more work for the town’s Dept. of Public Works to keep detention basins functioning unless there is a maintenance agreement making this the homeowner’s responsibility. The Board asked whether the regulations address excessive noise. Freedman said they do not but a developer is required to provide a construction management plan which follows the noise policy drafted by both Boards.

Frado asked what information is available on preliminary plans. There is no way to determine whether a detention basin might result in groundwater mounding if they are not shown early in the permitting stage. Septic plans only show the features of the single lot when applying for a construction permit. Brem asked what kind of soil testing was done for an infiltration basin and were the tests witnessed by the peer reviewer? Freedman said it was an interesting question. He did not know the answer. Brem said this could be a problem if the detention basin has a higher water table than thought, it will not function properly. It will end up holding water rather than infiltrating through the soils. The Board of Health agreed that groundwater is most likely measured using the soil horizon instead of observed high groundwater. This is acceptable for new construction under Title 5. Brem said in practice many towns have the health agent witness the testing for drainage basins when onsite for the septic testing. These towns typically have full time agents. In Carlisle Title 5 testing is permit specific with a fee. Freedman said there is no procedure for collecting testing fees by the Planning Board. The discussion then continued on as to who would be responsible for witnessing the testing and how to pay for it. Freedman agreed to talk with the Planning Board’s engineer and local firm Stamski & McNary Inc. since they do a lot of development in Carlisle. Planning could add language requiring the additional information. It may be that their consultant (Ventresca) is already doing witnessed testing.

Frado then asked about drywells. He checks for Title 5 setback distance but not the construction specifications which are part of the Planning Board approvals. Fantasia said installers will often ask what is required thinking it is part of the septic installation. Freedman said drywells are required to handle roof runoff. Whether they are actually constructed is under the Building Department purview. Freedman thought it would be helpful to meet with Frado and Fantasia on these issues. He will also contact Ventresca and Stamski & McNary to see how they handle detention basin designs and testing.

(7:55 Brem left the meeting and Risso took over the chairmanship.)

PH (cont.) 128 LOG HILL ROAD – Upgrade of a failed septic system requiring a local upgrade waiver for: (1) reduction in distance from leaching area to wetlands, 100’ required 77’ proposed and use of Alternative Percolation Testing (sieve analysis).

Present for the hearing was Mark Piermarini of Whitman & Bingham and Bob Morrison, developer.

Piermarini explained that a redesign had been submitted based on items identified by the Board at the last meeting. The system now utilizes a Presby Enviro-Septic Leaching Field which provides a 40% reduction in footprint. The setback to wetlands is now 77'. Because of the reduced fill required, the system is now able to meet the 4' of separation to groundwater eliminating a need for that waiver. He had located the wells of abutters and provided an estimated cost for drilling a new well. He did not feel there would be any benefit to this additional expense. The Board agreed that the utilization of the alternative technology reduced the number of waivers required and provided a more acceptable design for the site. Flannery asked about the cost of the alternative technology. Piermarini said the savings in fill should offset cost of the technology. There were no further questions.

It was moved (Galligan) and seconded (Margolies) to close the public hearing. It was moved (Galligan) and seconded (Margolies) to approve the septic system upgrade for 128 Log Hill Road in accordance with plan entitled "Soil Absorption System, 128 Log Hill Road, Carlisle MA, designed by Whitney & Bingham, revised 10/2/13" and grant a waiver from the Carlisle Supplementary Sewage Disposal Regulations for setback to wetlands, 77' provided, 100' required. Motion passed 4-0-0.

SHELTER PLANNING – Emergency Director/Fire Chief Dave Flannery appeared before the Board to discuss the new state shelter plans and the possibility of creating a local shelter committee. The state is looking for ways to manage shelter needs on a regional basis to help economize on staff and supplies. Carlisle would definitely participate in a regional shelter. Communities would still be responsible for the first 24-48 hours until the need for a regional shelter was determined. In Carlisle shelters are needed for water, showers, charging and comfort stations, not necessarily for sleeping. Flannery said Carlisle is well equipped to handle a small local shelter at the school which is fully powered by a generator. The Fire Dept. and Board of Health have a lot of supplies in storage at the Fire Dept. and Health Dept. van. Additional items such as blankets and pillows could be delivered or picked up from regional resources. The American Red Cross (ARC) had previously surveyed the school for a shelter. The information should be updated as result of the new building. The school is also the designated Emergency Dispensing Site (EDS) so there is overlap between the Emergency Department and the Health Department for planning purposes. The school also has an unused storage room that could be used for shelter supplies. This would make it easier to set up a shelter since everything would already be onsite. Fantasia said the Board of Health has a barcoding system to inventory equipment and supplies. This should help with shelter management. Fantasia noted that identifying and training volunteers should be a community responsibility. Previous Carlisle shelters used a combination of Medical Reserve Corps and Council on Aging volunteers. There may be other residents willing to help but are not members of these groups. A town committee would solicit volunteers to provide a larger pool of shelter staffing, arrange for trainings, provide liability coverage, and update shelter plans. Fantasia asked if the shelter would be a Red Cross one or locally run. Flannery said if it had more than 100 people he would have the Red Cross manage it. Fantasia said the town is not equipped to manage a medical shelter (anything that requires administration of medicine or medical equipment). Larger towns usually do this. Fantasia also noted that as Emergency Director, Flannery can be very busy during an emergency. Having a pre-arranged shelter committee under the Local Emergency Planning Committee would be more efficient. The committee could also help to educate residents about using a shelter and planning for emergencies.

The Board liked the idea of a shelter committee. Flannery said he would prepare a proposal for the Selectmen.

Tobacco Resource Manual – the Board reviewed the manual prepared under a grant by Terry Curran. The Board was impressed with the style and content. The manual (28 copies) will be distributed locally. It is also available online.

Audit Report – Brem responded to the auditor's comments on how the office handles cash receivables. He noted that the Board has a multi-step operations manual which addresses this task.

Title 5 Letters of Non-Compliance – the Board agreed to add a line to contact the Board with questions. The Board also suggested "personalizing" the message with a written note that the Board hopes to be able to close out the file and issue the legal documents appropriately. Owners will be invited to meet with the Board. Letters will be copied to the Building Inspector. Four properties owe money for engineering services. Their letters will be sent out certified mail. The next step will be to decide on appropriate fines for owners who still do not respond. Since the request to review the letter came from Brem, Risso agreed to check with him about the new follow up.

Medical Marijuana – Mass Health Officers Assoc. sponsored a workshop attended by Margolies, Fantasia and Curran. The power point is available on the MHOA website. The regulations are in place but the state has not yet hired sufficient staff to handle the applications. Access and security are two big issues. Residents can apply to the state for a hardship cultivation permit. This would allow the resident to grow his own product. The cost to apply for a dispensing permit is \$1500 for a notice of intent, \$30,000 if approved to apply and \$50,000 for the license. There are zoning implications such as distances from schools and gathering places for children. Carlisle's subcommittee is looking into these. Dispensaries must be in a different location from the growing fields. Carlisle might be approached for growing marijuana for a dispensary in another town. Margolies is on the subcommittee and will keep the Board informed.

BILLS – refund for cancelled testing by the state. It was moved (Galligan) and seconded (Sarma) to approve the bills as presented. Motion passed 4-0-0.

Community Septic Loan Program – Galligan had prepared the quarterly report. No loans were issued.

There was no further business discussed. Meeting voted to adjourn at 9:25 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda M. Fantasia,
Recorder